

A FEW BRIEF  
REFLECTIONS  
UPON A  
PAPER,  
STILED,

*Some Considerations Offer'd to both Houses of  
Parliament, Concerning the Sugar-Colonies,  
and chiefly the Island of Barbadoes. West Indies*

**W**Hile other Writers have been Employ'd  
in *Defaming particular Members* of the  
Two Houses of Parliament; this Pam-  
phleteer hath been so audacious as to at-  
tempt the *Imposing upon, and the Misleading,* not only  
of *Some,* but all the *Members* of both those *Honourable  
Houses.* And when a certain *Mercenary* sort of *Writers,*  
had only the *Insolence* to attacque the *Reputation* and  
*Integrity* of our *Wiseſt, Beſt and Worthieſt Senators;* the  
*Author* of these *Considerations,* hath been so assuming  
as to take all the *Members* of both *Houses* to be *Weak,*  
and to *Treat* them accordingly. And if it be natural  
to

to all men, to Resent *Affronts* put upon their *Intellectuals*, as well as *Reflections* made upon their *Morals*; the *Writer* of that *Paper* (whosoever he be) deserveth the severest *Parliamentary* Chastisement.

Now that which I would *First* observe in relation to the foremention'd *Paper* is, That tho' it is pretended to be *Founded* upon, and *Warranted* by an *Act* made in *Barbadoes* 12 Sept. 1663. Yet the *Writer*, hath in no part thereof *Recited* either the *Preamble*, or any *one Clause* whatsoever of the said *Act*. And tho' I cannot blame his *Policy* for that *Omission*; yet I cannot avoid accounting it a great peice of *Sophistry*; in that it plainly shews, his design was to *Delude* the *Two Houses* of *Parliament*, and not to *Inform* them.

Nor ought it in the *Second* place to be either slightly overlook'd, or easily pardon'd, that he hath *Treated King Ch. II.* in a most ungrateful manner. For whereas it is entirely owing to the *Wisdom* and *Goodness* of *King Ch. II.* that he not only purchased from the *Earl of Kennoul* the *Patents*, which *King Ch. I.* had *Granted* to the *Earl of Carlile*, (vesting *Him*, his *Heirs* and *Successors* with an ample *Authority*, *Power* and *Jurisdiction* over; and a most *Beneficial Interest* in that *Island*;) and thereby *Rescued* the *Inhabitants* of *Barbadoes* from burthensome *Tenures*, and *Grievous Impositions*; but that he also both vouchsafed unto them many *Remissions* from what they stood obnoxious unto for the *time past*; and likewise *Granted* them many great *Priviledges* and *Advantages* for the *time to come*; yet this *Writer* would have the *two Houses* of *Parliament* believe, that the *In-*  
 see p. 6. *habitants* of that *Island* had been *Robb'd* by the said; *King*, of what they had laid on themselves for their *Defence* and that the *Freedom* due to *English men*, had by that *Prince* been *Denied* unto them.

Neither



Neither can I in the *Third* place forbear taking Notice, what *Reproaches* both of *Deceit* and *Tiranny*, that *Pamphleteer* hath endeavour'd to fasten on the *Reign* of *King Charles II.* by daring to tell the two *Houles* of *Parliament*, that he hop'd the *Continuance* of such a *Grievance*, into which the *Inhabitants* of *Barbadoes* had been at first deceived, and which could not be Remedied by any *En-* ibid.  
*deavours* under the late *Reigns*, would not be continued in a *Government*, that standeth on such a foot of *Liberty*, as that of the *Late King William* did.

Moreover it ought not in the *Fourth* place to Escape *Animadversion*, how this *Writer* hath not only left a *Satyr* on the *Reign* of *Kings Ch. II.* but hath also fastened all the *Obloquy* he can on the *Parliaments* of *England*, as well by *Insinuating*, that there are not those *pro-*  
*visions* made for the *Security* of *English American* *Plantations*, as the *Dutch* make for theirs; as by his having the assurance to tell both *Houses* of *Parliament*, what a great ibid. p. 5.  
*disparity* there is in the *Taxes* laid upon our *Plantations*, from what is laid upon those belonging to the *Dutch*.

Whereunto let me *Subjoyn* in the *Fifth* place, that whereas that *Writer*, Represents it as a particular and extraordinary *Grievance*, that the *People* of *Barbadoes*, do pay to the *Publick* in *England*, and in the *Island*, above ibid.  
*one Third* of the *Neat* produce of their *Estates*; it ought p. 10.  
to be observed, how that as during the whole late *ex-*  
*pensive* *War* (towards the supporting whereof, this *Nation* did greatly exhaust it self) no one fresh *Addi-*  
*tional Duty* was laid on the *Inhabitants* of *Barbadoes*, in  
any *Commodities Imported* from thence; so that besides  
very many other burdensome ways fallen upon here, by  
means whereof they were eased, there was such an  
*Imposition Enacted* upon *Mault*, as well as on *Bear* and  
*Ale*, as doth not only arise to above a *Third*, but a-  
mounteth to a much greater *Annual* value.

*Ibid.* p. 6. Nor can I omit observing in the *Sixth* place, how that his saying, That the Appropriating the *Four and a Half per Cent. Payable upon the Productions of Barbadoes*, to the *Civil List*, is the *seperating thereunto a Fund, which is the only one that is not Rais'd by Act of Parliament*, seemeth to be Calculated and Design'd to the *Divesting the House of Commons* of that Right, Authority and Power which do Intrinsically and Essentially belong to them, both of *Laying what Impositions* they please, on all *Goods Imported from Barbadoes*, and of *Applying whatsoever Taxes, they of that Island may have Granted to the Crown*, to what Uses and Purposes they shall think fit to *Appoint* them, if they have not been otherwise previously Granted by those in Sovereign Authority.

Finally, and in the last place, I do humbly desire it may be carefully observed, that whereas this Offerer of *Considerations to the two Houses of Parliament*, hath from Qualities peculiar to himself, taken upon him thro' his whole Paper, to Affirm that the *Four and a Half per Cent*, which the *Inhabitants of Barbadoes Impos'd on the Commodities of the Growth of their Island*, by their *Act of 12. September 1663*, was not to the Use of the *King or Government*, but meerly to *their own Use and Defence*, in the *Repairing of Fortifications, Building a Prison, Sessions-house, and for Defraying the Charges of holding the Grand Sessions Annually*; how that I shall make the contrary appear, by calling over diverse Passages in the foremention'd *Act*; from and by which as it will be made evident, upon what *Considerations* the said *Four and a Half per Cent.* was *Granted*; so it will from thence be made both demonstratively plain, that the *Author* of that Paper could have no other design in *Writing* it, save to *Impose upon, and Misdread the Parliament*; and also set



that case have cause to complain, are the Successors of the *Earl of Carlile*, thro' the Application of the *Four and a Half per Cent.* to the *Civil List*, and much more would have so, should it be given to those of *Barbadoes*, without an Equivalent and Legal Provision made for the Payment of the 1000*l.* *Annuity per Annum*, which by Royal Contracts, is Granted and Promised upon very Valuable Considerations unto the said Successors.

**W** Hereas our late Sovereign Lord Charles, Preamble.  
*the First, of Blessed Memory, did by his Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England, Grant and Convey unto James Earl of Carlile, and his Heirs for ever, the Propriety of this Island of Barbadoes; and his Sacred Majesty that now is, having by Purchase Invested himself in all the Rights of the said Earl of Carlile, and in all other Rights which any other Person may Claim from that Patent or any other, and thereby more immediately and particularly hath taken this Island into his Royal Protection.*

And whereas by Virtue of the said Earl of Carlile's Patent, diverse Governours and Agents have been sent over hither, with Authority, to Lay out, Set, Grant or Convey in Parcels the Lands within this Island, to such Persons as they should think fit, which was as much as in them lay accordingly perform'd.

And whereas many have lost their Grants, Warrants, and other Evidences for their said Lands, and others by reason of the Ignorance of those times, want sufficient and legal Words to create Inheritances in them and their Heirs; and others that never Recorded their Grants or Warrants; and others that can make no proof of any Grants or Warrants they ever had for their Lands, and yet have been long and quiet possessors of the same and bestowed great Charges thereon.

And whereas the Acknowledgment of Forty pounds per Head, and other Taxes and Compositions formerly raised to the Earl of Carlisle was held very heavy. For a full Remedy therefore for all the Defects above related, and quieting the Possessions and settling the Tenures of the Inhabitants of this Island.

The Act.

Be it Enacted—That in consideration of the Release of the said Forty Pounds; and in consideration of the Confirmation of all Estates in this Island as aforesaid.

And forasmuch as nothing conduceth more to the peace and prosperity of any place, and the protection of every single person therein, than that the publick Revenue thereof may be in some measure proportioned to the publick Charges and Expences, and also well weighing the great Charges that there must be of necessity

in the maintaining the Honour and Dignity of his Majesties Authority here, the publick meeting of the Sessions, the often Attendance of the Council, the Reparation of the Forts, the Building a Sessions House and a Prison, and all publick Charges Incumbent on the Government, do in Consideration thereof, Give and Grant unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors for ever, and do humbly pray That it may be Enacted: And be it Enacted, That an Impost or Custom be from and after the publication hereof, raised upon the Native Commodities of this Island, That is to say upon all dead Commodities of the Growth or produce of this Island, that shall be Shipped off the same, there shall be paid to our Sovereign Lord, the King, his Heirs and Successors for ever, Four and a half in Specie for every Five Score.

FINIS.



THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY  
NATHANIEL BENTLEY

IN TWO VOLUMES.  
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